

Quagga Decontamination Procedures for Day-use Boaters

Quagga mussels have invaded vast stretches of the Colorado River bordering Arizona, as well as Lake Pleasant near Phoenix.

The primary risk of moving these rapidly-reproducing mussels to other Arizona waters comes from boats and trailers contaminated with microscopic quagga larvae. It is crucial all boaters follow simple steps to help prevent the spread of quagga mussels and other invasive aquatic species.

Day-Use Procedures

Boats on the water for less than 5 days could be contaminated with microscopic quagga larvae. Before leaving any lake, please:

1. **Drain** the water from the bilge, livewell and any other compartments that could hold water.
2. **Clean** the hull and remove any clinging material such as plants, animals and mud from boat, motor, equipment and trailer.
3. **Dry** boat and equipment.

If your boat will be used within 5 days on another water, take these additional steps:

4. Replace bilge drain plug and **disinfect the bilge** by pouring in 1 gallon of household vinegar (you can drain the bilge once home). Vinegar can be reused a few times.
5. **Hot power wash** the boat, motor, trailer, livewell, anchor rope and anything else that came in contact with the water. Try do-it-yourself car washes.
6. If a power wash is not available, **spray vinegar** on boat, motor, trailer, live-well, anchor rope and anything else that came into contact with the water. Vinegar also helps fight unsightly calcification on the hull, boat motor and lower unit.
7. **Dry** boat and equipment.



**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!™**

Protect Your Boat | Protect The Environment

DON'T MOVE A MUSSEL

Quagga Mussels Have Invaded Arizona

What is a Quagga?

The quagga mussel is a small freshwater bivalve mollusk with a dark and white pattern along its shell. They are usually less than an inch long. Although small, these invasive mussels can collect in huge colonies, literally carpeting underwater surfaces.



How do they spread?

These invasive mussels can live for three to five years and can release 30,000 to 40,000 microscopic fertilized eggs (called veligers) in a single breeding cycle and up to one million fertilized eggs in a year. A single cup of water left in a bilge can contain thousands of these invaders.

Why are they a threat?

Although quagga mussels do not pose a known threat to human health, quagga mussels can attach themselves to a number of surface types, including boat hulls, engine intakes, livewells, bilges, water-intake valves, canals, pipes, aqueducts and dams. This can cause increased maintenance costs. In the United States, Congressional researchers estimated that invasive mussels alone cost the power industry \$3.1 billion in the 1993-1999 period, while their impact on industries, businesses, and communities totaled more than \$5 billion.



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